

Blueprint Payment Implementation Workgroup

July 11, 2012

Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:**

**Project Managers**

Mark Young, Barre; Dana Noble, Bennington; Wendy Cornwell, Brattleboro; Beth Steckel, Burlington; Jean Cotner, Middlebury; Elise McKenna, Morrisville; Sarah Narkewicz, Marie Gilmond, and Mary Lou Bolt, Rutland; Candace Collins, St. Albans; Laural Ruggles, St. Johnsbury; Kaylie Chaffee, Springfield

**Payer Representatives**

Robert Wheeler, MD, Scott Frey, Pam Biron, and Carol Cowan, BCBSVT; Kevin Ciechon, CIGNA; Roberta Gilmore, BCBS; Lou McLaren, MVP

**State Agency Staff**

Allan Ramsay, MD, Green Mountain Care Board; Pat Jones, Terri Price, and Jenney Samuelson, Blueprint

**CMS (Medicare) Update**

Medicare's July–September attribution is complete; practices that have received access can go on the web portal and review the beneficiary lists. Medicare payments are occurring on schedule.

Beth Steckel noted that there continue to be issues with logging on to the web portal. Pat offered to request an updated report of approved users from Medicare, and send the relevant information to each project manager.

Pat noted that CMS has encouraged approved users for each practice and CHT administrative entity to assign back-up users. If access is still an issue, users should send an email to the MAPCP e-mail address, and copy Pat.

Wendy Cornwell noted that she can access the web portal for one practice in her health service area (the hospital-owned practice), but not for the private practice.

Pat noted that if a CHT administrative entity has access to the web portal, the user should be able to access the beneficiary lists and other information for all practices in the health service area. Sarah asked if the CHT user would be able to access the information even if a practice didn't want to use the information; Pat indicated that generally they would be able to access it, because the practice is part of the HSA. Wendy Cornwell asked if there are any limits to the number of people who can use the portal; Pat replied that she is not aware of a limit as to how many back-up users a primary user can assign.

### **Web Portal Information**

Candace Collins, the Blueprint Project Manager for the St. Albans area, gave a presentation on the web portal. A Powerpoint presentation was provided; Candace reviewed the information on the web portal and described how the St. Albans CHT is using the information for potential follow up with patients.

The presentation was very informative, and a number of participants thanked Candace for the information.

### **Locum Tenens Providers**

Several practices use providers who serve as locum tenens to fill vacancies and provide needed services. The payers indicated that distinctions can occur between:

- Short term vs. long term locum tenens providers, and per diem providers
- Locum tenens providers who are credentialed vs. providers who are not credentialed
- Locum tenens providers who are accepting new patients vs. providers who are not

Jean Cotner described an example of a practice that was fortunate enough to find a long term locum tenens provider when two full-time providers left the practice. Using locum tenens providers until permanent hires could be made was essential to preserving services for patients; in this particular case, the locum tenens provider is credentialed but has not been made available to new patients because he has enough work with existing patients.

The payers suggested that there may be confusion in terminology and definitions. In general, true locum tenens (literally, “holds the place of”) providers are not credentialed, are short term, are not listed in provider directories, and are not assigned a patient panel. Longer term temporary providers and per diem providers might be credentialed. This may be an issue of definitions; the payers suggested that project managers and the work group might want to discuss this issue and develop definitions. A longer discussion at the next meeting would be helpful.

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 – 2:00 pm  
Dial In: 1-888-394-8197  
PIN: 313409